

The Spirit

A Monthly Publication of University Lutheran Church



Beloved of ULu,

Between my freshman and sophomore year of college, I had the opportunity to be a counselor at an ELCA camp I went to as a child. That summer was transformative in many ways, including it furthering my call to ordained ministry. During our two week training session, which took place prior to the arrival of our first week of campers, we learned a great deal about safety. A favorite amongst us counselors was the VHS film *Food Safety Is No Mystery*, which was a blend of important information and absolute absurd situations a person in a commercial kitchen might face. However comical (or ridiculous), the message was clear: safety has to be the number one priority!



Since becoming a pastor, I've thought a lot about safety. At my previous call, the bulk of which took place during the pandemic, COVID-19 protocols and practices were always at the forefront of my mind. After a Zoom bombing during worship, I had to think about cyber safety and security. I even had to have hard conversations about building security and preparing for worst case scenarios, following the visitor who accosted me on Pentecost Sunday 2022.



From the onset of my starting here in September 2023, I constantly engage in conversations about safety and security to protect the building/property, our congregation, our tenants, and all those that come through our doors for one reason or another. I do not act alone, either. Council, Property Committee, and our Church Administrator are constantly evaluating and reevaluating safety protocols, procedures, and practices. The aim is to not only respond to situations as they arise, but to be proactive and anticipate them before they happen.



We need your help! Greet visitors and people you do not know. Not only does that show we are welcoming and that "we see you," it also can deter folx from acting inappropriately if they should have adverse intent(s). Stick to a buddy system. If you're here late, go to your cars at the same time. Do not be afraid to ask someone to accompany you to a different location than the one you currently reside. Make sure all the windows are closed and locked before you leave. Check the bathrooms and ensure they are empty. Take time to see that the many internal and external doors are locked and are closed completely before departing. And, if you see something that seems off or makes you pause, tell someone else. In *Food Safety Is No Mystery*, it was stressed that safety is everyone's responsibility. I would extend that to us at University Lutheran Church as well.



Think Safe. Act Safe. Be Safe.
Andy †

WE CHOOSE LOVE. ALL ARE WELCOME.

EVENTS COMING UP

—YOU'RE INVITED!—

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION Dinner

**WED. MAY 15, 2024
6:30 PM @ ULC**

In gratitude for your gift of many meals, we would like to make a meal for you! Please RSVP to Pastor Chelsea by 5/12.




BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/2 Jaydn
- 5/4 Sue Tong
- 5/5 Emily Anderson
- 5/8 Westin R
- 5/9 Brian & Linda Maschhoff
Clint & Maggie Pehrson
- 5/12 Junia R (1!)
- 5/14 Michael Rouse
- 5/16 Julian R
Brad Anderson & Theresa
Lehan-Anderson
- 5/17 Linda Mohl
- 5/20 Stacy Schulze
- 5/21 Red Burchfield
Phil Lundahl
- 5/22 Joan Overland
Rebekah Robinson
- 5/23 Jan Orlando
- 5/24 Andy Kopser & Kristi
Maschhoff
- 5/26 Stacy Crowner
- 5/28 John Oakley & Kathy
Lachata-Oakley
- 5/31 Joan & Merle Overland



BLESSING OF THE CLASS OF

2024

University Lutheran Church ELCA
**Graduate Blessing
Sun. June 2nd
10:00 am**

All UW graduates are invited to receive a sending blessing & reception. RSO members will receive club cords. Family & friends welcome!





Elizabeth Gregory Home
OPEN HOUSE

June 4th | 3-5 pm

Curious to see what our Day Center looks like and the services we provide? Please join us for a casual event to meet the team and see our space!

1604 NE 50th Ave (basement of University Lutheran Church)
Parking available in the church parking lot



**The church office
will be closed on
Monday, May 27
for Memorial Day.**

EVENTS COMING UP

University Lutheran Mariners Night – Friday June 28.

Take me out to the ballgame! Take me out with the crowd! Our yearly ULC Mariners Night will be Friday, June 28, against the Minnesota Twins. We have fantastic seats again this year in Section 117 on the first base line on the main level. Set aside the date. Put on your cap. Wear your jersey. And come prepared to Root. Root. Root for the home team. Tickets are an affordable \$18 per person. Indicate your interest by sending Jeff Berner an email at jkberner@comcast.net, or sign-up on the bulletin insert in June.

MAY SPECIAL OFFERING: UNITED CHURCHES EMERGENCY FUND

UCEF was created in 1986 to provide information, referral and financial assistance to people in need residing in Northeast Seattle and to the homeless, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or disability. They serve those in zip codes 98103, 98105, 98115, and 98125. They can pay up to \$250 to assist with rent, electricity or move-in costs. ULC has partnered with UCEF for decades and was one of the original founding churches. Your generous gift to this organization will help many of our neighbors.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Read Any Good Constitutions Lately?

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly occurs every three years and as part of the business of the assembly it reviews provisions in the constitution and adopts amendments to it. Congregations are then encouraged to review and revise their own constitution and bylaws to incorporate the changes and to update those provisions and bylaws that are particular to each congregation. The ULC Council is currently reviewing our constitution to include the changes made at the synod level and to determine if there are specific provisions we want to include based on the life of this congregation. The hope is that the revised ULC constitution will be approved by the Northwest Washington Synod and then by our congregation at the December 2024 congregational meeting.

The Council is asking all members, and especially our committees, to take a look at the ULC Constitution found on the Members' page of our website, and to offer suggestions for provisions that you feel should be included in our revised constitution. If you would like to review the ELCA Model Constitution, you can find it at <https://www.elca.org> by searching "constitutions" then scroll to 2022 Model Constitution and if you would like to see the amendments to the Model Constitution, scroll down to Model Constitution Amendments.

The Council will be reviewing our constitution for the next few months and would like to have your input by the end of August. Thank you for your help!

Yolanda Houze
ULC Council Vice President

Meeting Notice: The 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, May 19, following worship. All members are asked to attend to elect leadership for the coming year and to hear community and building updates. If unable to attend in person, a Zoom link will be available from the office.

AILANGA SCHOOL PROJECT

Thank You for Generous Donations!

Between December and March, ASP received \$1331.45 from members of ULC. Please accept our sincere gratitude for your ongoing support of the students and staff at Ailanga school. Your contributions will be used to support their current program priorities.

Planning for 2025 Delegation Trip

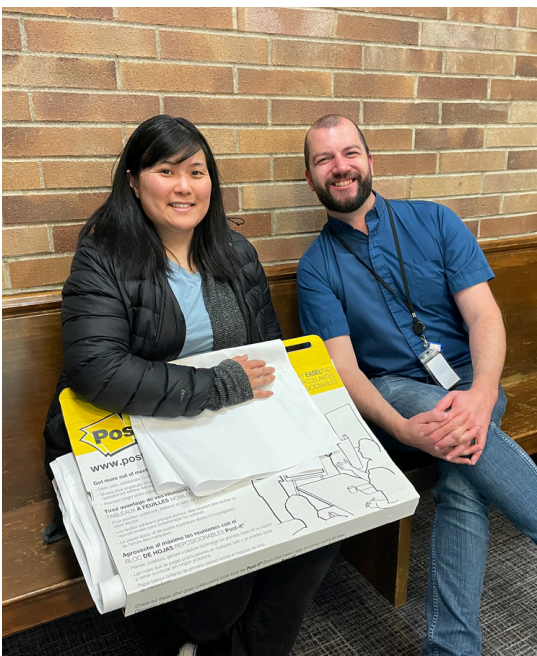
On April 21, the Ailanga School Project board hosted a zoom meeting to provide information for high school youth and adults interested in traveling to Tanzania in summer of 2025 (late July-early August). Approximately 20 persons attended. Topics included:

- Highlights of activities (participating in classes, interacting with students, visiting a Rehab Center, coffee farm, and local markets, going on safari)
- Expected costs and logistics
- Trip preparation (including passports, visas, vaccinations, delegate meetings, life at Ailanga expectations, fundraising opportunities)

As the next step, we plan to have in-person meetings (one in Seattle, one in Port Angeles) in May to address questions in more detail. We will coordinate the dates with those who are interested in attending. If you have interest or questions, please let us know

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Peace and Justice Committee kicked off with a forum on 4/28. New chair Eunice How led discussion on the most urgent social justice issues of today, what peace and justice in the church means, and brainstormed ideas for work and projects. Stay tuned for the scheduling of future meetings, activities, and action alerts!



PROPERTY COMMITTEE: BUILDING UPDATES

Tenant Spaces Renovated and Ready to Lease. We've now completed the renovation of tenant spaces on the upper floor, including Rooms 200, 201, 202, and 203. We are now actively seeking to lease these excellent work spaces. Please spread the word that we have space available for nonprofit organizations needing administrative office space. Prospective tenants should contact Mari in the church office.

Lawn & Garden Department. With the arrival of spring, we need to address the fact that we dismissed our landscaper last year, and haven't yet contracted with a new one. We'd like to handle that in two ways for the time being. For maintenance of planting beds, we're hoping to organize a few members with green thumbs to periodically get together for organized gardening sessions. This includes the planting bed on the south end of the building, and the garden on the west side of the parking lot. For lawn care, we need a couple of able-bodied volunteers to take turns mowing the lawn at the south end of the Parish Building, and the narrow planting strip along 16th Avenue NE. For that purpose, we're replacing the church's old gas-powered lawn mower with a new cordless electric mower. If you'd like to help with either of these duties, please notify Mari in the church office.

Elevator Modernization. The elevator contractor is now promising completion in May of the new elevator cab interior finishes and lighting. That will conclude the elevator modernization project.

One More Water Station. Over the last couple of years, we've been working through the process of replacing old drinking fountains with new bottle-filling filtered water stations, and had previously completed installations in the main floor corridor and in the EGH tenant space downstairs. That work has now been completed throughout ULC's building with the installation of a new water station in the upper floor corridor, completed by our plumbing and electrical contractors on April 25th.

Upper Floor Restrooms. In March, we started a small project to repair some damaged wallboard in the upper floor men's restroom, and discovered that there was some mold present that needed to be removed properly. We've retained ServPro, a company specializing in mold removal, and they've developed a work plan for removing affected finishes and eliminating the mold. That unexpected project is now underway, and is being covered by ULC's insurance company.

Alley Exit Door. Speaking of unexpected projects, three young men attempted to break into the building at the east exit door (near the Chapel) early on the morning of March 26th. They attempted to force the door open with a steel pry bar, but failed to gain entry, and managed to lose their pry bar in the attempt when it became trapped in the edge of the door. The door and frame were damaged beyond repair, but our friends at Abbott Construction were able to respond the next day to secure the opening with temporary wood framing and plywood. Now we're working with a storefront contractor to fully replace the door and frame assembly – another claim that has been approved by our insurance company. The new storefront should be installed within a few weeks.

Security at Building Entry Doors. An ongoing building security challenge has been the reliability of the door closers at the north (parking lot) and south (Narthex) entrance doors. These devices have not been working satisfactorily, resulting in doors that fail to latch reliably when people enter or exit the building. We're having a door contractor adjust or replace these devices, as necessary, in order to ensure that we have doors that close and lock securely. We hope to have this work finished by early May.

FROM OUR BISHOP

I have a confession to make, I am a terrible pool player. I am so bad that the last time I played, the person I was playing with stopped the game and said, "You are the worst pool player I have ever played with." (I had told him I was horrible but he didn't believe me.) I'm using this story as a very thin tangent to talk about gifts and the Spirit ... bear with me.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12, we read, "Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

As many of you know, Paul was writing to a congregation in Corinth after receiving some correspondence from them and hearing their concerns. Throughout this letter Paul emphatically makes it clear that no one is spiritually better than others – no one has better faith, no one has better gifts, no one should eat better than another at the Eucharist table. Paul is adamant in this. (He is talking about this because of some struggles in the Corinth church. You are welcome to read the entire letter of 1 Corinthians to get more context.)

Paul emphasizes that because we all receive faith through the Holy Spirit, no one is spiritually superior. Paul further emphasizes that because we all receive a variety of gifts given by the Holy Spirit, no one has a worthier gift than another. And, to emphasize this point, Paul writes that the Spirit does not give only one kind of gift to all. Because the church and the world need diverse gifts, the Spirit gives different gifts to different people. In other words, Paul is simply saying this: same Spirit – lots of gifts.

You hear this? In a society where we emphasize certain gifts and skills and abilities above others (and often feel like we have fallen short), we hear in 1 Corinthians that the Holy Spirit gives a variety of gifts to a variety of people. Specifically, YOU have been given a variety of gifts, and this is good.

Further, these Holy Spirit gifts – they are not meant to benefit the individual person but are to benefit the entire community and world. Paul emphasizes that these gifts are not to be used in selfish ways or in self-

seeking ways. Paul clearly states that if a gift cannot be shared, and shared for the good of others, it is not from the Spirit. Ultimately, the purpose of these different gifts of the Spirit is to share in God's love and grace and mercy with all through Jesus Christ our Savior.

As Americans, we have often been told (and maybe believe) that as individuals we are responsible for ourselves. We are not to rely on others – we are to be strong and self-sufficient. We are taught that to have freedom is to be autonomous. But let's be clear. This is far from what we read in 1 Corinthians. Paul says each person receives gifts for the common good. Paul says that each person receives the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. It is in community where the gifts from the Holy Spirit shine. It is in community where the Holy Spirit is made manifest.

You see, it is God's intention that we are to be with one another – for one another – as the community of faith, as the body of Christ, as the Church on earth. The Holy Spirit has given a variety of gifts to a variety of congregations and individuals. And together we are called to bring these gifts together to help bear one another's burdens, to love and pray together, to bring justice and new life, to be made manifest in the Holy Spirit for the common good.

Honestly, it doesn't matter that I am a terrible pool player. But it does matter how I both share the gifts that God has given me and how I reach out to others in mutual support when I am in need.

I would love to hear stories from you about your gifts being made manifest in the Holy Spirit – individually and in your congregation. How are each person's gifts being shared in your own particular congregation? How is your congregation sharing with another congregation? What gifts were missing from your particular place of worship that you have found outside of your space? What gifts have you been able to share with others?

May we live into what we often say in worship, "The gifts of God, for the people of God." Amen.



Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA

University Lutheran Church: Who We Are

We are a progressive congregation with a history of taking action on peace & justice concerns. We are a member of the NW Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, supporting people of all sexual orientations & gender identities.

We are passionate about our worship, we cherish our music, & we love a good potluck.

Our communion table is open.

Everyone, no matter where you are on your faith journey, is invited to the Lord's Table.

We are poised on a threshold, ready & eager to creatively try new & innovative ways for mission & ministry in the University District. We do not know where this will lead us, but we trust with all our being that God is already there & is drawing us to join in the parade.

We do so with excitement & joy because . .

We Choose Love.



Financial gifts support the ministry and mission of University Lutheran, including service and advocacy in this community and beyond. You may donate by leaving cash or a check in the offering plate at the door near the front of the sanctuary, giving online (through Tithe.ly) by clicking on the donate button on our homepage, texting to give at 833-751-1202, or mailing a check to the church office.

Contributions of whatever size are deeply appreciated.